

How 'green' is your pet?

helping nature
help us



A fascinating guide was produced for Buriton's B-earth Day Village Show this year: sharing some tips to help the environment whilst still loving your dog!

It points out that here are over 13 million dogs in the UK, living in 36% of our households. They give us a lot of happiness but we give them a lot of 'things' many of which are made of plastic or come in plastic packaging.

From feeding them, entertaining them and cleaning up after them – pets can end up bringing us mountains of unwanted plastic waste. Lots of this doesn't get recycled and can hang around in the environment, posing threats to wildlife.

We feed many of our pets lots of meat based products and processed foods, which are often transported from far away, increasing the pet's carbon footprint without them knowing it.

And in trying to keep our pets healthy, we apply tick and flea treatments to them which can contain insecticides that can wipe out millions of pollinators and other important insects.

Some of the tick and flea treatments contain insecticides that are banned in farming, but they still find their way into our pet products. We then release our lovely cats and hounds into the countryside armed with a fatal weapon to wipe out bees, bugs and vital life in rivers, streams or ponds.

The special leaflet guide encourages pet owners to:

- avoid plastic food pouches and try a greener diet
- buy eco-friendly pet toys
- don't let your pet upset local wildlife – or crops
- beware of tick and flea treatments that can last up to 90 days and be harmful to pollinators
- make your pet's bedding from second hand materials rather than anything involving plastics
- always pick up poops and take them home or put them in appropriate bin whilst out: very little effort with a massive positive benefit.

The full leaflet is available on the community website via this link: <https://www.buriton.info/sites/default/files/2024-07/Eco%20Friendly%20Dog%20Care%20Leaflet.pdf>

The guide was produced by the Buriton Environmental Association, a group of volunteers who joined with parish councillors to explore ideas for local actions to help address threats posed by global warming and the crises affecting nature. The guide draws upon advice produced by Friends of the Earth and other sources.

If you would like to join the group or help in any other way, please email: buritonbea@gmail.com